



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

**CHARLES COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO
262 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR DRUG OFFENSE**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Anthony Weaver Pope, age 30, of Waldorf, Maryland was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte to 262 months in prison for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, followed by five years of supervised release.

Pope was arrested by members of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force after a search warrant was executed at his residence in Charles County, Maryland on February 21, 2003. The statement of facts to which Pope stipulated in his plea agreement established that on that day, officers found between 150 and 500 grams of crack cocaine in his home, as well as three weapons: a Grendel .380 caliber pistol with a loaded magazine, a Colt .45 pistol with a loaded magazine, and a Ruger 9mm handgun with a loaded magazine. Additionally, other items associated with drug trafficking were also found in the home, including digital scales with cocaine residue on their surfaces and bags used to package crack cocaine.

At today's sentencing hearing, District Judge Messitte denied the defendant's motion for a

downward departure in his criminal history category, finding instead that the defendant was a “career offender” under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, in conjunction with the Charles County Sheriff’s Office, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mythili Raman in Greenbelt, Maryland.